

Illinois Prescribed Burn Manager Certification Board (IPBMCB)

Report to the Director of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)

September 2010 - June 2012

This report is prepared in compliance with the 17 Ill. Admin Code 1565.70f

I. Members of the IPBMCB

The Board shall be made up of three representatives designated by the Director (IDNR), one representative designated by the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC), and one representative designated by the Office of the State Fire Marshal (17 IL Admin Code 1565.10).

Within the reporting period, Board Members were:

Paul Brewer, IDNR Wildlife Resources
Tom Wilson, IDNR Forestry
Bob Szafoni, IDNR Natural Heritage
Randy Heidorn, INPC and IPBMCB Presiding Officer
Michael Moos, Office of State Fire Marshal (2010-2012)
Les Albert, Office of State Fire Marshal (2012 – present)

II. Progress of the IPBMCB

Within the reporting period, the IPBMCB:

- Selected a Presiding Officer, determined operation of the Board and established a meeting schedule for 2010 – 2012. (Resolution 1-1)
- Reviewed over 400 applications for certification as an Illinois Prescribed Burn Manager
- Convened and received final report from the Comparative Standards Task Force to assist in develop of Equivalent Coursework Standards for other prescribed fire training curricula and certifications for compliance with the Illinois Prescribed Burn Act and its Administrative Rules (Resolution 1-2)
- Initiated efforts to include electronic means in the conduct of Board meetings (Resolution 2-3)
- Formally adopted the Equivalent Coursework Standards and Evaluation Matrix for determining equivalency of material as substitution for the requirements of certification under the Act and Administrative Rules. (Resolution 5-7)

- Provided Equivalent Coursework Standards to applicant requesting approval of the Midwest Prescribed Fire Crew Training as a substitute for the requirements of certification under the Act and Administrative Rules
- Created a web-based outlet for applications, Board meetings and minutes, reports, and other Board products and resources
(http://dnr.state.il.us/conservation/forestry/Wildland_Fire/index.htm)
- Met with Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) Air Quality Permit staff regarding revision to Open Burning Regulations Administrative Rules and approved continued inter-agency discussion between IEPA and IDNR / IPBMCB of proposed revisions to Open Burning Regulations (Resolution 5-9)
- Submitted to IDNR Legal Counsel modifications to the Administrative Rules for the Illinois Prescribed Burning Act that would:
 - Add one additional member to the IPBMCB; bring the total number to six. The additional member would be a non-state employee involved in prescribed fire implementation and management
 - Extend the “grandfathering date” to December 31, 2015
 - Permit IPBMCB meetings to be conducted by conference call and other electronic means in compliance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120)
 - Establish a quorum of the Board as four members
 (Resolutions 2-3, 2-4, 3-5, 3-6, 5-8)

III. Status of Illinois Prescribed Burn Manager Certification Program

As of June, 2012, 426 applicants were approved as Illinois Certified Prescribed Burn Managers. By certification category, 397 applicants were certified under the grandfathering criteria and 29 were certified by the apprenticeship process. No applications were received for equivalency under other state or federal prescribed fire certification program/processes

IV. Prescribed burns that have escaped reported to the IPBMCB

Within the reporting period, the IPBMCB received no reports of escaped fires as per 17 IL Admin Code 1565.60c.

V. Meetings of the IPBMCB

Meeting Number	Meeting Dates
1	28 September 2010
2	15 December 2010

3	14 June 2011
4	14 September 2011
5	14 March 2012
6	13 June 2012

VI. Resolutions of the IPBMCB

September 2010-May 2012

Meeting number- Resolution number	Resolution text
1-1	Randy Heidorn will continue as the Presiding Officer of the Illinois Prescribed Burn Manager Certification Board for a two year term, rotation to be set. The quorum will be set at four members. The ability to utilize electronic meeting capabilities will also be investigated.
1-2	A workgroup will be established to develop the standards for a substitute for the requirement of S130 and S190 for the Certification of Prescribed Burn Managers under 17 Ill. Admin. Code 1565.20 (a)(1). One member of the Illinois Prescribed Burn Manager Certification Board will Chair this workgroup with the workgroup's recommendations being submitted to the Board by December 1, 2010 so that recommendations can be presented at the second meeting of the Illinois Prescribed Burn Manager Certification Board on December 15, 2010.
2-3	The Illinois Prescribed Burn Manager Certification Board will pursue, by whatever means necessary, the use of technology to conduct its meetings.
2-4	The Illinois Prescribed Burn Manager Certification Board recommends that the deadline for the grandfathering-in period be extended until December 31, 2011.
3-5	The Illinois Prescribed Burn Manager Certification Board recommends that the deadline for the grandfathering-in period be extended until December 31, 2015.
3-6	The Illinois Prescribed Burn Manager Certification Board recommends that the Director of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources expand the membership of the Board by one member. The Board will provide the Director with a recommendation of who the additional member should be. The additional member must be a certified prescribed burn manager.
5-7	The Illinois Prescribed Burn Manager Certification Board approves the equivalent course work standards crosswalk and evaluation form matrix as presented under Item 6 of the 5 th meeting.
5-8	The modifications to Part 1565 Illinois Prescribed Burning Act, as presented under Item 10, are approved and will be forwarded to the IDNR's legal counsel for the final approval process.
5-9	The Illinois Prescribed Burn Manager Certification Board recommends that the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Director have an inter-agency discussion with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency on the impacts of the Environmental Protection Open Burning Act and the Illinois Prescribed Burning Act as they relate to the application process.